

Call for Book Chapter Abstracts - Invisible Peace Work: Narratives of Hope and Despair

Emi Kanemoto, emi.kanemoto@siu.edu

Editors: Emi Kanemoto, Eddah Mutua & Sasha Allgayer

We seek chapter proposals for an edited book (in conversation with Peter Lang) that provides narratives about individual experiences around wars, conflicts, and violence in/from different regions of the world. While the primary way people around the world learn of conflict is through media, the world rarely gets to know what happens when the cameras go off. It is the peace scholars, practitioners, and the locals at the sites who are there, seeing, and experiencing. Through this book, we seek to bring out the “invisible” experiences in peace work.

We are specifically looking for autobiographical storytelling to foreground nuanced personal experiences with peace-building scholarship and activism. Our hope is that the stories shared offer an opportunity for scholars and peace practitioners to highlight experiences that engage in purpose and provide directions about ways to sustain doing peace work in the long-term.

Contributors can include scholars and peace practitioners who have experienced war and reconciliation first-hand, as well as those who visit such post-conflict settings in efforts to contribute different ways of understanding peace scholarship and practice. At the same time, there are drawbacks to peacebuilding efforts which are just as important to highlight.

Therefore, we want this book to highlight these great moments of motivations, despair, the in-between, and when enough is enough.

Thus, we are inviting contributors to share narratives that speak to what motivated you to engage with peace work, and details of when you had these in-between moments or went into complete despair. Here are some potential prompts:

- Motivation to go into peace studies/ scholarship /peace work: What motivated you to go into peace studies/peace work? What is going well? What keeps you going with this work?
- In-between moments: The moments of hope and despair happening simultaneously. This could include stories that were told by locals that could have impacted you in different ways. Describe these moments in detail. What kept you going? What derailed your peace work efforts? What could possibly explain how you moved forward and then moved backwards? How did this ‘Yoyo’/ ‘yo-yoing’ moment of ups and downs feel?
- Despair: When do you feel demoralized in regards to peace work? Describe moments you felt you did not want to do peace work anymore. If you found your way back after the despair, how did you do so? Alternatively, what prompted you to give up completely?

Please send chapter abstracts of no more than 500 words to Emi Kanemoto (emi.kanemoto@siu.edu) by March 27, 2023. Final chapters will be around 5,000 words.